Common Core State Standards

Secondary Mathematics Information “In A Nutshell”

The **Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI)** is an effort designed to improve educational outcomes for kindergarten through twelfth-grade students by developing a set of common, voluntary, internationally-benchmarked academic standards in mathematics and English/language arts.

* *What’s in a Name?*

**Common** = Shared

**Core** = Essential

**State** = All of Maryland, together with 47 other states, 2 territories, and the District of Columbia

**Standards** = A clear set of shared goals and expectations for the knowledge and skills necessary for student success

* *Why Change?*
* To help ensure that students are receiving a high-quality education consistently, from school-to-school and state-to-state
* To help ensure that students are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce, *no matter where they live*
* To stress not only procedural skill but also conceptual understanding in order to make sure students are learning and absorbing the critical information they need to succeed at higher levels
* *Who Benefits?*
  + **Students:** Clearer standards help students understand what is expected of them and allow them to engage in more self-directed learning.
  + **Parents**: Consistent standards provide parents with a better understanding of what concepts should be mastered at each grade level.
  + **Educators**: Focused content standards provide educators a platform to engage students in rigorous and relevant units of study, and allow for more time to develop deep conceptual understanding (rather than focusing on “fitting everything in”).
* *Key Points for Secondary Mathematics Standards*
* Call on students to practice *applying mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges*, *reasoning and explaining, modeling and using tools, seeing structure and generalizing*
* Set a *rigorous definition of college and career readiness* by helping students develop a depth of understanding and ability to apply mathematics to novel situations, as college students and employees regularly do